

PEOPLE IN WANT
can make those wants
best known by using
TEE-DEE WANTS.

The Times Dispatch

THOSE IN NEED,
need us no longer, for
TEE-DEE WANTS
will fill the need.

THE TIMES, FOUNDED 1886.
THE DISPATCH, FOUNDED 1850.

WHOLE NUMBER 16,481.

RICHMOND VA., SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

WARNS THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY

Mr. Todd Exposes Opera-
tions of Land-Grabbers

ARE DAILY AT WORK
SCANNING BOOKS

Discover Small Delinquency and
Then Set to Work on
Owner.

RICHMOND DRUGGIST IS
SAID TO HAVE PAID \$500

Many People Have Been Caught,
and Mr. Todd Says the
Poor Suffer From It.
A Fruitful Field
for Speculation.

So great in Henrico has become the evil
of land-grabbing, and so vicious in its
effects upon many of the poor, that the
treasurer of the county deems it necessary
to warn the citizens generally and to
expose the very remarkable conditions
prevailing daily at the courthouse, where
speculators are constantly at work over
the land books, searching for some over-
sight that will place an unsuspecting and
oftentimes penniless property-holder in
their power.

In the office of Mr. Todd yesterday
there was expressed the desire that the
people might be informed of the facts
and advised to look carefully to the mat-
ters pertaining to their property, large or
small. Mr. Todd said he wished, for the
sake of many poor persons, who are be-
ing made to suffer by the issue of warn-
ing. He could not post notices, or any-
thing of the sort, and his only medium
of communication was the newspapers. These,
he believed, would be rendering a
service to humanity by the issue of warn-
ing. "You may say it is coming from me,"
he declared, "that every day the land books
are being scanned by people who spend
nearly all of their time at the business.
I have seen a man, a citizen of Henrico,
who has been scanning the books for some
time, and he has been able to find out the
need of great care in reference to their
taxes."

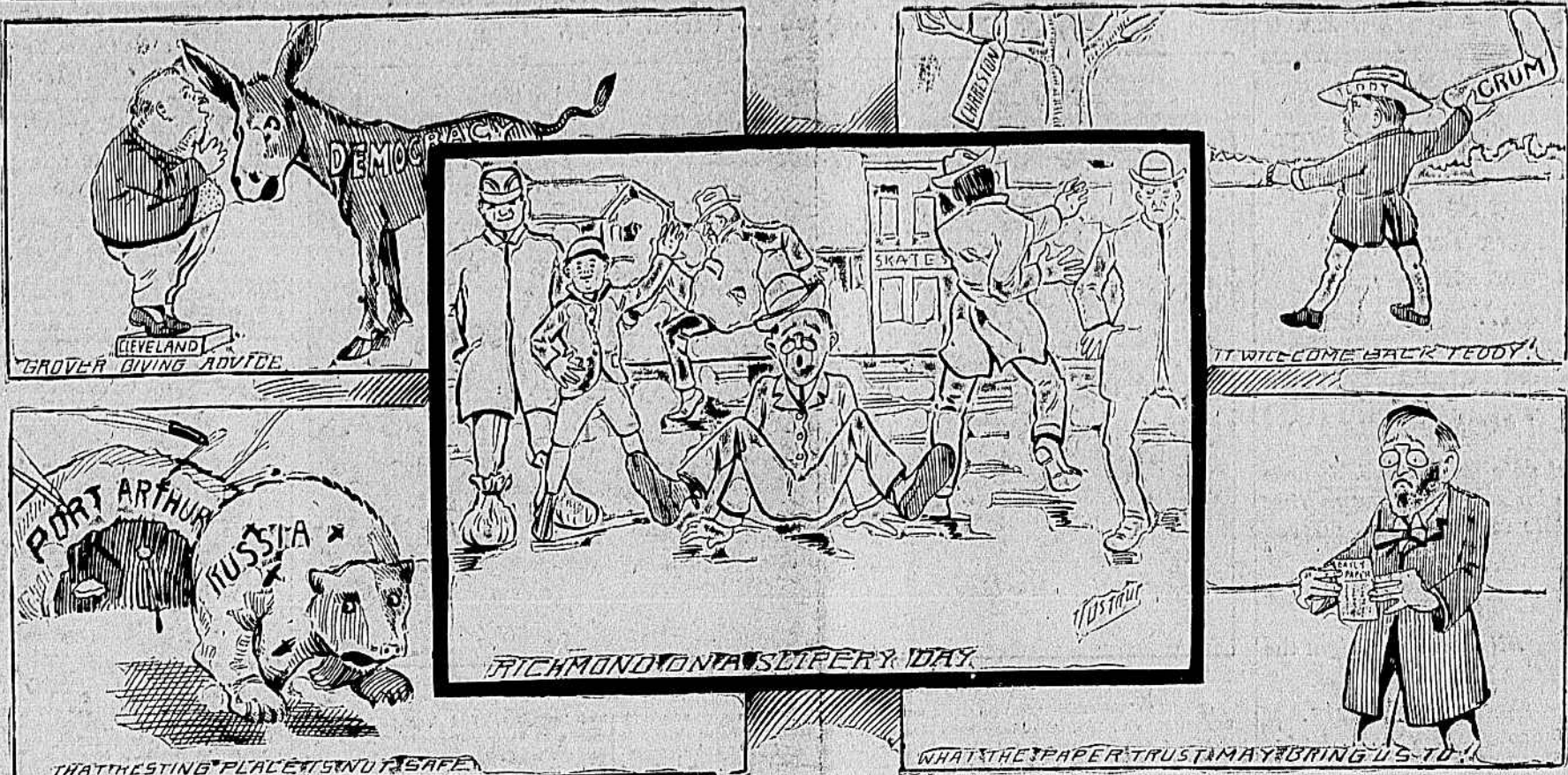
Searching the Books.

The delinquent laws of Virginia open
a fruitful field for the speculation now
rife in Henrico. Under these laws land
delinquent for two years are subject to
sale by the State. Any citizen has a right
to apply for them, and if after two years
the owner fails to redeem his property,
the applicant is given a deed therefor,
and the ownership changes. The only
consideration is the amount of taxes due,
which is ordinarily very small. The
property-holder is now utterly helpless.
The land-grabber usually offers to sell
the land back to him for a sum consid-
erably in excess of the taxes he paid,
and unless the original owner pays this
he parts with his heritage for good and
all. The law requires notices of these ap-
plications to be mailed to the owners, but
experience shows that the system is very
ineffective, some of the notices never
reaching the real owners. If redemption
of property occurs within the two years,
then the land-grabber gets back the taxes
he has paid, with six per cent. added.
It can easily be seen how the land-
grabber may be reaped by those who take
advantage of the delinquent laws. The
land-grabbers, so-called, do not depend
particularly upon such people as have
neglected their property for years,
though they take these, too. Where they
catch the owner is when he has been
in some way in a former year. Nearly
every man is liable to this oversight,
and many frequently find that while
their tax receipts run up to the present
time, they are delinquent in some small
amount for a period some years back,
back that they had forgotten to pay
where the land-grabber gets in his
work.

At the Henrico courthouse every day
of the week are certain individuals who
are scanning the land books, searching
for these little overlooked delinquencies.
As soon as one is discovered they set
the machinery in motion and secure the
property, paying the taxes. Then they
inform the owner and offer to sell the
land back for a sum much below the ac-
tual property value, but mostly above
what they paid for it in taxes. By this
speculation they are reaping a consid-
erable profit, and at the same time
imposing a great hardship upon many
of the poor.

Many Are Caught.

A day or two ago there was placed in
the hands of the deputy sheriff a list
of about twenty people whose property
was in the grasp of the land-grabber.
Notices will be mailed to these people,
and if they fail to show up the title to
their lands will revert to the applicant
who has paid the delinquent tax.
Many people are being caught in this
way, and a number of them are poor and
unable to meet the sudden demand made
upon them. In fact, many of them are
being set by the land-grabber, who lose
their homes. An old corn-field negro
walked into Mr. Todd's office a week or so
ago and began mourning the loss of a
100 acre farm—all he had. The property
was valued at about \$800 and was in the
hands of the land-grabbers, who had
offered to sell it back for a certain amount.
"I owe much taxes to I owe, boss,"
he said.
"Ninety-three cents," he was told.
This sum of ninety-three cents repre-
sented what the land-grabber had paid for
the 100 acres. Mr. Todd told the negro
the only hope he had of keeping his farm
was to buy it back. He sent him to the
office of the land-grabber.
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THE ARTIST'S VIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS!

a price on it and offered to sell it back.
The price was five hundred dollars. The
owner had no recourse. He paid the
sum. Even a commissioner of the revenue,
Mr. L. H. Kemp, was caught in the
net, as well as another well known Rich-
mond gentleman. The case of the latter
has provoked considerable amusement.
The gentleman is an examiner of titles,
and spends considerable time at the
courthouse almost touching arms with the
land-grabbers playing their trade. But
they grabbed him, too.

Wants to Warn Them.

"I think it is time to warn the peo-
ple," said Treasurer Todd yesterday,
"and particularly the poor people upon
whom great hardship is being imposed.
Widows and orphans, owning a little
home, are being made to suffer by the
issue of a home any longer, unless they
pay a price they are unable to meet. I
advise all property-holders, for their
own benefit, to look with more care to
the payment of taxes due. If they do
not, they are going to be caught. The
land-grabbers, as I said before, are being
searched every day by certain people
at the courthouse."
Mr. Todd said he understood that the
proposed new "Torrens" system, which
would change the old "Torrens" system,
under which lands would be sold at public
auction, where the owner was bound to
be aware of his jeopardy. Moreover,
something like the actual value would
be secured. The State would deduct the
taxes due and then give to the owner
the residue of the sum brought in by the
sale.

TURKS KILL 500. BUT LOSE HEAVILY

(By Associated Press.)
SALONICA, MACEDONIA, Feb. 20.—
Another battle occurred between the in-
surgent Albanians in North Albania and
the Turkish troops, February 18th. The
Albanians were beaten, losing 500 men
killed and wounded. The Turks also
lost heavily.
Shemsi Pasha, who was in command of
the Turks at Diakova, has been super-
seded, owing to the Sultan's displeasure
at his unduly severe treatment of the
Albanians.

WILL WITNESS THE NAVAL MANOEUVRES

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—Ad-
miral Dewey, Assistant Secretary of
State Loomis, Rear-Admiral Taylor, and
Lieutenant Reginald P. Balk, of the
Bureau of Navigation, will leave here
for Charleston, S. C., where they will
attend the naval manoeuvres and sail for
the West Indies to witness the manoeuvres
of the combined fleets in those waters.

SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS WITH NO JURY

Ice Will Make This a Great
Shad Season—Richmond
Donation.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
FREDERICKSBURG, VA., Feb. 20.—
Henry Everett, who was indicted by the
grand jury on the charge of entering the
store of J. G. Rauch in the night for the
purpose of robbery, when he was de-
tected by a trap gun, which led to his de-
tection, was tried by Judge A. T. H. H. H.
in the Corporation Court here, without a jury.
The judge fixed the penalty for the
prisoner at three years in the peniten-
tiary.

Mr. J. A. Gude, of Richmond, the con-
tractor who made the recent street im-
provements here, has sent a check for
\$25 through W. L. Brannon, treasur-
er, to the city of Fredericksburg, for the
purpose of making a donation to the Mary
Washington Hospital.
Captain William Nelzay, an old fisher-
man of the Potomac River, says that he
looks for an early and profitable fishing
season, and stated that if the river con-
tinues frozen up until the middle of
March, that season will be more numerous
than ever known.
Mr. Samuel Fitzhugh, of this city, has
in his possession a number of interest-
ing old papers written by Miss Elizabeth
Rust, of Moravia, Va., to her brother,
Benjamin D. Rust, of Fredericksburg.
The first one is dated December 18, 1813;
the next July 24, 1814, and the next Sep-
tember 20, 1814, all of which refer to sub-
jects of great interest in those days.
Mr. Fitzhugh also has a commission
issued by Gen. Mims, Lieutenant-Governor
of Virginia, to Joseph B. Bowman, an in-
habitant of a troop of cavalry in the fourth
regiment of militia of that time.

BIRTHDAY OF WASHINGTON

Will be Observed as a National
Holiday Here and Else-
where.

SOLDIERS GO TO ALEXANDRIA

Greatest Affair Ever Given in the
Old Historic City on
the Potomac

Washington's birthday will be duly ob-
served in Richmond. The day is a na-
tional holiday, and the banks, the State,
city and national departments will be
closed.
For many years the natal day of the
Father of His Country has been looked
upon and observed as a day of reverence
by the American people.
This has been particularly true in the
East and in the South, the two sections
of the country that made up the original
thirteen States.
Congress has made the 22d of Febru-
ary a national holiday, and the States
and cities have followed it up.
In the various sections of the city the
day will be duly observed by the histori-
cal societies and the patriotic associa-
tions.

Here the Virginia Society of the Sons
of the American Revolution will engage
in a smoker and oyster supper at the
rooms of the Virginia Club, No. 231
East Grace Street, at 8 o'clock to-morrow
night. At that time the occasion will
be made attractive by short addresses by
prominent members of the society.
Annual Celebration.
The committee in charge of the affair
consists of Messrs. Arthur B. Clarke,
George T. Crawford and Ben. Blake
Minor.

As is the usual custom, the offices in
the Capitol, Library, City Hall, Custom-
house, banks and postoffice will be
closed. The officers and their clerks will
remain in the city and celebrate the day
in their own fashion.
The public and private schools will be
closed, and the pupils will enjoy them-
selves and do as they please.
Owing to the fact that the military
will leave for Alexandria to-day, there
will be no demonstration, as has been the
custom for years.
All over the State the day will be ob-
served quietly, except in Alexandria.
For many years this old city has al-
most spent its energies in celebrating the
birthday of Washington. The day is a
red-letter one in the years as they roll
along. No one resident of Alexandria
can do any more than any other one in
paying homage to the memory of the
first and good George Washington.
All the city goes out on a holiday, and
the city fathers invoke the aid of the
patrons of the other sections of the State
to help them make of the day one grand
holiday.

JEROME GETS WARM AFTER SHIP TRUST

Will Make Investigation to Prove
or Disprove Statements That
Have Been Made.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
NEW YORK, Feb. 20.—District At-
torney Jerome will inquire into the ship-
building trust without reference to any
investigation that may be made by the
State authorities. Mr. Jerome's inquiry
will be started early next week.

As soon as those persons who were
backing the suit for a receiver of the
company learned of the proposed investi-
gation, Mr. Jerome was notified that they
would give him any assistance in their
power. The transcript of the testimony
at the last hearing in the shipbuilding
case was forwarded to Assistant District
Attorney Rand.
The inquiry in the first place will be
directed to discovering the truth or falsity
of the several public statements concern-
ing the company, and who made them.
There will be a special inquiry also into
the operations in connection with the ac-
quisition of the Bethlehem Steel Com-
pany.

SYMPATHY OF FLORIDA IN DEATH OF HANNA

(By Associated Press.)
JACKSONVILLE, MISS., Feb. 20.—The
State Senate to-day adopted resolutions
of sympathy at the death of Senator
Hanna. Although there is not a Re-
publican in the Senate, the resolution
was adopted unanimously by a rising
vote.

WARM WORDS OVER PANAMA

Messrs. Spooner, Morgan, Money
and Tillman Figure in the
Day's Proceedings.

THE QUESTION OF SECESSION

South Carolina Senator Says It
Might Have Succeeded If We
Had Had a Strong Ally.

(By Associated Press.)
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—Pan-
ama was the subject of three speeches
in the Senate to-day, and was the only
subject of general importance that re-
ceived any attention. Mr. Spooner com-
pleted the speech begun by him on Thurs-
day, and Mr. Morgan and Mr. Money
both made brief addresses. Mr. Morgan
spoke in opposition to the treaty, as
usual, and announced that he would not
be heard again on the treaty. Mr. Money
announced his intention to vote for the
ratification of the canal treaty.

Minister Bunau-Varilla was an inter-
ested spectator of the day's proceedings,
occupying a front seat in the diplomatic
gallery.
Mr. Morgan made an appeal for a care-
ful revision of the treaty, so as to make
sure of the footing of the United States
in Panama when the canal shall be
constructed. He urged that the treaty
should be so amended as unequivocally
to permit the intervention of the United
States in case of necessity. He urged
as a reason for this suggestion his opin-
ion that ultimately Panama would find
back in union with Colombia unless
helped in leath by this country. In this
connection he asserted that the Spaniards
of Panama and Colombia always would
be found co-operating in all things in
reprobation of the United States.

President's Course Indefensible.

Mr. Money declared that the President's
course in violation of international law
had been such as to render it indefensi-
ble. He was sure that this and other
acts of the United States in connection
with the Panama revolt would deserve
and receive the censure of history. But
had as our course had been in Panama,
he said, it was no worse than our course
in Hawaii and the Philippines had been.
He also contended that the President had
been wrong in his recognition of Panama,
but concluded that as he had given it
recognition, its independence was estab-
lished and its rights as a nation fixed,
and this status being fixed, the new
republic had a right to enter into the
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HE MAKES LIGHT OF THE TALK

Mr. Williams Not a Can-
didate for Presidency.

IS BARRED BY HIS LOCATION

Though Some Hold That Mr.
Cleveland Had Reference to
Minority Leader.

THE HEARST BOOM IS CAUSING ALARM

It Cannot be Understood Why
Mr. Bryan Is Such a Friend
of Mr. Hearst—May
Capture the New
York De-
legation.

From Our Regular Correspondent.
WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 20.—"Yes,
it is true that my boom for the Demo-
cratic nomination to the presidency is
growing finely," said Hon. John Sharp
Williams, of Mississippi, the Democratic
floor leader, to a newspaper man to-
day. "My people think well of the propo-
sition to nominate me, and I have heard
recently that I am endorsed by the
citizens of Shubuta, Toombsville, Shi-
quah, Chickasaw, Buckatuna, Sa-
talia, Younglovely and Gruball," and
he hastened back into the hall of the
House of Representatives, leaving the
newspaper man wondering whether the
Mississippians were giving names of real
places in his State, or had only been ex-
hibiting his linguistic abilities.
Mr. Williams was only making light
of the talk heard in some quarters that
he would make a good candidate for the
presidency. Some have said that in the
recent letter of Mr. Cleveland, in
which he said that the geographical loca-
tion of the candidate should not be a
factor in the convention, had reference to
the fact that the Democratic leader of
the House is a Mississippian. Mr. Wil-
iams is a native of Tennessee, but has
spent the greater part of his life in Mis-
sissippi.
There is no likelihood of Mr. Williams
being a candidate for the nomination.
His place of birth and residence bar him.
It is said that the delegation from Mis-
sissippi is more likely to be for Mr.
Hearst than anybody else.
The party test is not the only one to-
day, remarked that Mr. Williams was barred
from the nomination because of his place
of birth and "Hearst by a high over-
thing else."

So I am now brought again
to the subject of my letter in
The Times-Dispatch of last Sun-
day—William R. Hearst and the Demo-
cratic nomination to the presidency. I
pointed out then that there was great
uneasiness among the Democrats in
the party test. Mr. Hearst and Mr. Bryan,
working in harmony, should capture the
St. Louis Convention and write the plat-
form and select the candidate. There
is no lessening of that fact. I mentioned
several names, and among them was
Hearst, but did not mention Mississippi.
This was because the fact was not gen-
erally realized that he was so strong
in that State. Now his supporters are
claiming that he will capture the dele-
gation, and that some of the
Mississippi friends of other candidates
are almost ready to admit that the State
is gone.

But the most interesting development
in the Hearst boom is the fact that
the friends of Judge Parker, who is
a millionaire candidate, will get the
New York delegation. It is reported that
the former are greatly alarmed at the
apparent strength of Mr. Hearst among
the workmen of New York city and
State. The fact is made more appar-
ent than ever by reason of the dele-
gation of Mr. Hearst's friends from
Pennsylvania and Illinois. The Hearst
people are very active, and clubs have
sprung up in various cities, formed for
the purpose of furthering Mr. Hearst's
 candidacy.
One or two Hearst clubs have been
formed in Virginia, and one case they
are composed chiefly of men who earn
their living by daily toil. Mr. Hearst,
through his newspapers, seems to have
deeply impressed the workmen of the
country with the idea that he is par-
excellence their friend. There seems no
ground for this. Judge Parker does,
for instance; but Judge Parker has not
a newspaper in which to assert his love
for the sons of toil, and Mr. Hearst has
three, and will soon have another one.
A prominent Democratic member of
the House of Representatives, who has
to me the other day that he was utterly
unable to comprehend the friendly re-
lations which subsisted between Mr. Hearst
and Mr. Bryan. Mr. Hearst has never
been personally in favor of the nomina-
tion of Mr. Bryan to the presidency,
and has never thought that the dis-
cussing of slavery was a desirable
thing. He has said he was a Democrat, who
believed it his duty to support the party
nominee and platform, and he has caused
his papers to do so in both the campaigns.
Judge Parker is said to have had pre-
cisely Mr. Hearst's notions regarding
Mr. Bryan's candidacy and the free silver
platform, and did exactly as Mr. Hearst
did as to supporting them. He voted
twice for Mr. Bryan for the presidency.
Mr. Gorman did the same thing, and
hundreds of prominent Democrats
throughout the country did the same
thing. Yet many of them are the specific
objects of Mr. Bryan's bitterness, and
Mr. Hearst is his warmest friend. As
Mr. Watterson said recently, Mr. Bryan
is as true as Mr. Hearst's bar, steering
for the White House.

But there is no doubt that the Hearst
boom has proportions that are alarm-
ing to the advocates of a sane can-
didate on a sane platform. They think
that the nomination of Mr. Hearst would
make it certain that there would be
nothing.

FIVE PERSONS ARE DROWNED WHILE SKATING ON THE ICE.

Three Boys Go Under the Ice,
Two Brothers Are Drowned
and the Other Resuscitated.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
WAKEFIELD, VA., Feb. 20.—While a
party of young girls and boys were skat-
ing to-day on the ice at Brittle's mill
pond, near this place, Johnnie Owen,
Gray Howell and Shirley Owen bro-
ther, were drowned. The boys were
recovering from the accident, both the Owen
brothers were drowned. The boys who
were drowned floated down under the ice
so that it was a considerable time after
they went into the water before their
bodies were recovered.
Every restorative that was known by
those present was applied to resuscitate
Howell, but it is not expected at this
time that their efforts will be successful.
(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
PETERSBURG, VA., Feb. 20.—Mrs. J.
Edward Moyer this evening received
news of the death by drowning of her
two nephews, John and Shirley Owen,
fourteen and fifteen years old, near their
home at Wakefield, Sussex county, and
left to night for that place.

ROCKINGHAM STANDS BY THE AGNEW ORGANIZATION

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
BALTIMORE, MD., Feb. 20.—In their
County Convention here to-day, the Rock-
ingham Republicans stood by the State
organization. Ex-Senator John Acker
was endorsed for district delegate to the
National Convention, and the name of
George B. Sipe, of Rockingham, for that
of S. Brown Allen, for delegate at large,
the anti-organization people were de-
feated by the overwhelming vote of 21
to 13.
The national administration was en-
dorsed without a dissenting vote.

WILL GIVE TIME TO MAKE CONFESSION

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)
REDFORD, IND., Feb. 20.—The grand
jury, which has been considering the evi-
dence in the Schafer murder case, has
adjourned until next month without giv-
ing any reason for so doing. James Mc-
Donald, arrested on a charge of murder-
ing Miss Schafer and held in prison at
Bloomington, is said to be nearing a nerv-
ous collapse. It is generally believed here
that the grand jury's action was due to
a belief that McDonald soon would make
a confession.

PORTO RICO WANTS TO BECOME A STATE

(By Associated Press.)
SAN JUAN, PORTO RICO, Feb. 20.—
The Federal Assembly to-day, by a vote
of 20 to 12, demanded that Porto Rico
be admitted to statehood or that the
Island be granted independence.